BORGLUM, GUTZON
Lincoln National Life, 1960

DRAWER 12

Sculptors - B
(Busts)

71.2009.085.03007

Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Gutzon Borglum

Lincoln National Life, 1960

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

PULLMAN BUILDING
CHICAGO

February 6th, 1908.

Gutzon Borglum, Esq.,

166 East 38th Street,

New York City, N. Y.

My dear Sir:-

Some time ago, as you know, Mr. Jacob Schiff kindly sent me three photographs of your face of President Lincoln, as to which I wrote him twice, sending him some small photographs in connection with some suggestions I made. It was my understanding that he would give you the photographs, and that perhaps he would tell you what I had said. It was my intention to call upon you upon my next visit to New York, but unfortunately upon the only occasion I have been there, I was too much occupied to find the time in my short visit.

I have seen your work at the Gorham Company's building, and was deeply impressed by it. I think it is the most extraordinarily good portrait of my father I have ever seen, and it impressed me deeply as a work of art which speaks for itself in the most wonderful manner.

I was entirely unprepared by the photographs for its great size, and was equally unprepared to find that one of my suggestions, the one which related to the back of the head, was, of course, without foundation. The photographs which I saw are at my house in the south, but I can only say that from them I supposed the work to be a complete bust. I gathered from them not the slightest idea of its actual form, and can give you only this as an excuse for what I wrote. After a more careful inspection of the work, I still think my criticism as to the lower lip is well founded, but I confess to you that I have

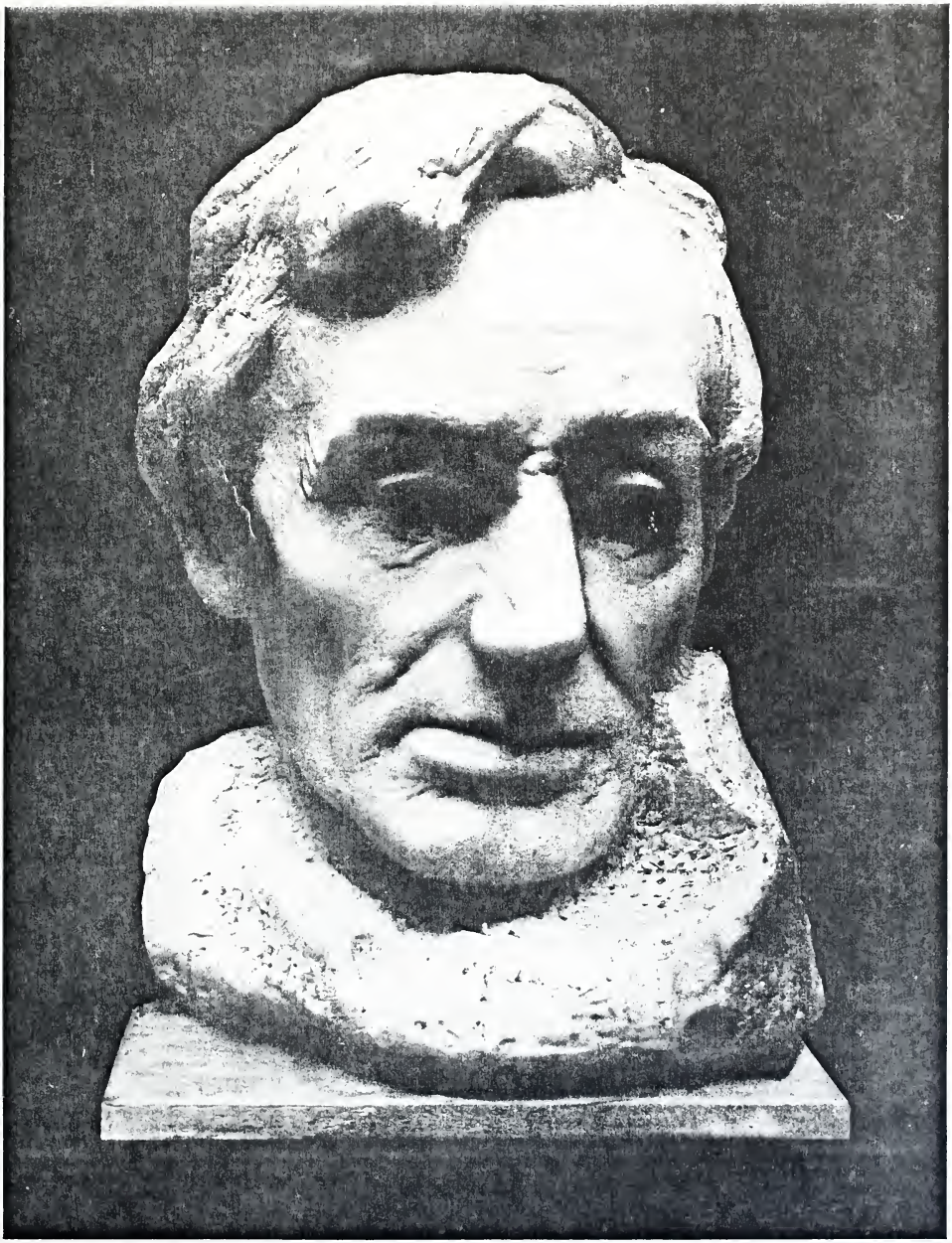
no desire to press it, and indeed would fear to have the slightest touch put to the work as you have already made it.

With your permission I will do myself the pleasure of calling and making your personal acquaintance some time, as I should very much like to congratulate you in person on this great success in which I naturally have a peculiar interest.

Very truly yours,

Robert Frost


25"
42"
15"
9"
10"
8"



March 4, 1961

Mr. Ralph G. Newman
Abraham Lincoln Book Shop
18 East Chestnut Street
Chicago 11, Illinois

Dear Ralph:

We want to purchase a bronze or marble colossal head of Lincoln by Gutzon Borglum. I have reference to such a head as is found at the Lincoln Tomb and in the U. S. Capitol.

Can you give me any leads?

It was pleasant seeing you and Earl Sewerlin at the Los Angeles airport a few weeks ago.

Sincerely,

E. Gerald McMurtry

EGM:kbw

April 4, 1966

Mr. Ralph G. Newman
Abraham Lincoln Book Shop
18 East Chestnut Street
Chicago 11, Illinois

Dear Ralph:

We want to preserve Lincoln as he was [illegible] Lincoln by David. Enclosed. I have not found an [illegible] at the Lincoln Tomb and in the T. [illegible].

Can you give us any leads?

If you discover anything you can find [illegible] support a new media [illegible].

Sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

mcm:hw

(6)

HOLABIRD & ROOT
ARCHITECTS ENGINEERS

FOUNDED 1883

PARTNERS
JOHN W. ROOT · WILLIAM HOLABIRD · HELMUTH BARTSCH · HARRY F. MANNING · BERNARD H. BRADLEY
ASSOCIATE: J. CHAUNCEY SHERRICK

March 4, 1960

Re: Lincoln National
Life Insurance Co.
H&R #9315

Dr. Gerald McMurtry
The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company
1301 South Harrison Street
Fort Wayne 1, Indiana

Dear Dr. McMurtry:

I am enclosing the original letter received from the Chicago Historical Society in response to my inquiry how it would be possible to obtain a copy of the Lincoln head Mr. Borglum used as a model for his Mount Rushmore monument. Enclosed also are copies of letters which cover the negotiations the Chicago Historical Society went through in obtaining their Lincoln head.

Yours very truly,

HBartsch

Helmuth Bartsch

enc.
HB:da
cc Mr. E. D. Auer

180 NORTH WABASH AVENUE · CHICAGO 1 · RANDOLPH 6-5960 · CABLE HOLROOT

Founded 1856

CLARK STREET BRIDGE, 1856

Telephone MIchigan 2-4600

CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY · *North Avenue and Clark Street, Chicago 14, Illinois*

Andrew McNally III, *President* · Theodore Tieken, *1st Vice-President* · James R. Getz, *2nd Vice-President* · Garfield King, *Treasurer*

Paul M. Angle, *Secretary and Director*

12/4/59
Returns & mor Bartsch

December 3, 1959

Mr. Helmuth Bartsch
Holabird & Root
180 North Wabash Avenue
Chicago 1, Illinois

Dear Mr. Bartsch:

In reply to your letter of December 1st, I am enclosing facsimiles of correspondence we have concerning the Society's acquisition of Borglum's Lincoln head.

Mr. Joseph Harris, the donor, obtained the bronze, from or through, Spaulding-Gorham, Inc.. The head was cast by the Gorham Co. founders and is signed on the lower left shoulder side --GORHAM Co. / FOUNDERS. The Spaulding part of the firm is still in existence in Chicago as Spaulding Jewelers. Gorham is in business in New York city, but I do not know their present address.

As the correspondence shows, Spaulding-Gorham in a search of its records in 1933 was not able to shed much light on the history of the casting of the head; nor did Mrs. Borglum provide any information in her letter of 1942. I personally assume that, since artists too must eat, Borglum had the bronzes cast because 1909 was the centennial year of Lincoln's birth assuring a ready market for the castings.

As to using a reproduction of the head for your new museum, I imagine that you would have to make direct request of the executor of Borglum's estate (if there is such) or of the owners of the original marble. (See letter from Architect of the Capitol.)

If you obtain permission to reproduce, or if you find that the rights to the head are public domain, I suggest that you write again to Mr. Angle concerning reproducing the head in our possession. If anything can be done to fulfill your request, I am sure that he will do it.

Yours truly,

Joseph B. Zywicki

Joseph B. Zywicki
Museum Curator

MOUNT RUSHMORE
NATIONAL MEMORIAL SOCIETY
of BLACK HILLS

~~Rapid City,~~ South Dakota
Hermosa,

April 1st, 1942

Chicago Historical Society,
Lincoln Park, North Ave.,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Jahn:-

In looking over my husband's papers, I find a letter from you dated June 1,1933. There is no indication that it was ever answered. The information you asked for at that time, regarding the bronze replica of Gutzon Borglum's marble head of Lincoln in the rotunda of the Capitol Building, Washington, D.C., might be of interest even at this date, should you not have it.

Mr. Borglum always said that colossal marble head was the first step towards his mountain carving. He had long felt that ordinary sized statues were not commensurate with the bigness of the men we specially honor, like Lincoln, or with the bigness of the times we live in. He had a large square block of marble in his New York Studio, which had stood there for some time and, after having read all he could lay hands on about Abraham Lincoln, studied all the portraits, and thought and dreamed about him, he started carving the head in the marble, without making any preliminary model. He used to tell an amusing story in connection with the carving. An old negro woman used to come in daily to clean the studio. For a long time that block of marble had been in her way, dust gathered around it and she couldn't move it. She paid no attention to the work going on until the bust was nearly done. Then, one day, her eyes traveled up from the floor where she had been sweeping, and she gasped with astonishment: "How'd Mista Borglum know Abe Lincoln was in that stone?", she said.

After the head was finished Mr. Borglum asked President Theodore Roosevelt if he would like to have it in the White House during Lincoln's birthday. Mr. Roosevelt said he would be delighted and it was placed there. After it had been returned to New York, Mr. Roosevelt wrote that he missed it and couldn't something be done to have it returned. A hint was given to Eugene Meyer Jr., the present owner of the Washington Post and he purchased and gave it to Congress, the Act accepting it, stating that it be placed in the rotunda.

Some time later, Mrs. Helen Plane, President of the Daughters of the Confederacy, saw it and thought she would like to have the same man who carved that marble bust, make a likeness of Lee on Stone Mountain. That led to the Stone Mountain Memorial and that to the carving of Mount Rushmore in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Borglum

Mrs. Gutzon Borglum

Several bronze replicas have been made from the marble. One is at Lincoln's tomb.

1909.1

JOSEPH HARRIS
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
Shoreland Hotel

June 9, 1933.

S

Dear Mr. Shattuck:

After receiving your letter regarding the Lincoln bronze I communicated with the Spaulding-Gorman, Inc. and am just in receipt of their reply, the original of which I enclose, which certainly does not give us much information. If my memory serves me right I think I was told by Spaulding-Gorman at the time of the purchase that there were two of the busts made - one in marble and one in bronze and that the marble one was purchased by or presented to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington. It might be well to make some inquiries in that direction. If I can be of further service to you please communicate with me.

I am also enclosing a check for Fifty Dollars to apply on my contribution to the pedestal. The balance, up to Two Hundred Dollars, will be sent you just as soon as things lighten up a bit. With my very best wishes, I am

Yours very truly,

Joseph Harris

JH:RF
Encl.

1909.1

ASSOCIATED WITH BLACK, STARR & FROST-GORHAM, INC OF NEW YORK

SPAULDING-GORHAM, INC.
Michigan Boulevard at Van Buren
Chicago

1636 ORRINGTON AVENUE
EVANSTON

June 8th, 1935

Mr. Joseph Harris
The Shoreland Hotel
55th Street and the Lake
Chicago, Illinois

My dear Mr. Harris:

We have been in communication with our Bronze Division in Providence and they advise us regarding the Lincoln done by Gutzon Borglum as follows:

"We have endeavored to locate records regarding the LINCOLN done in bronze and sculptured by Gutzon Borglum, but have been unable to locate anything which would be of interest to your customer, in the way of a short history of how this came to be made.

"I am sorry not to have been able to locate this information for you, but a thorough search of our records by myself and also by Mr. Hill, our Art Director, fails to bring anything to light regarding this particular bronze."

We regret exceedingly that we are unable to give you any further information.

Yours very truly,

SPAULDING-GORHAM, Inc.

V. C. Baurhyte
Vice-President

VCB.JS

1909.1

June 1, 1933.

Mr. Gutzon Borglum
Stamford, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Borglum:

One of the most prized possessions of the Chicago Historical Society is a bronze replica of your heroic sized marble "Head of Lincoln", presented to the Society by Joseph Harris, 1909. We understand that the original head is on exhibit in the rotunda of the Capital Building at Washington. It was a gift to Congress from Joseph Meyer, Jr., of New York City.

Due to many reference questions asked us, we are anxious to obtain additional information concerning this work, especially under what circumstances, or for what purpose the marble head was made. Do you have any recollections regarding the making of the bronze replica?

A letter from you giving the history of this head would be greatly appreciated. We would consider it a very special favor to have this information from you personally.

Sincerely yours,

EJ:M

Asst. Curator

Borglum, Gutzon

1909.1

G.W.

ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 9, 1933.

Mr. L. H. Shattuck,
Director, Chicago Historical Society,
Lincoln Park,
North Avenue at Clark St.,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

Answering your letter of May 5, 1933, concerning the heroic sized marble bust of Lincoln, by Gutzon Borglum, please be informed that this marble bust is signed by Gutzon Borglum 1908. It is generally supposed that, as this is a bust of Lincoln without a beard, that it is based upon material found in the life mask of Lincoln, by Leonard W. Volk.

Respectfully,

David Lynn

(David Lynn),
Architect of the Capitol.

CEF:S

1909.1

Warris, Joseph

DATE RECEIVED

READ BY
L. H. S.
WALSH P.W.
JAHN E. Jahn
MURRAY G. Murray
J. S.
FILED 5/5/33.

May 5, 1933.

Mr. Joseph Harris
55th Street and the Lake
The Shoreland Hotel
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Sir:

We find that our information is incomplete regarding the heroic sized head of Abraham Lincoln done in bronze by Gutzon Borglum which you presented to us in 1909.

Will you please be so kind as to furnish us with a short history of how you secured this replica? We can then add this information to our files.

Thanking you in advance for your courtesy, we remain.

Very truly yours,

Director.

LHS:PW

March 7, 1960

Mr. James Lincoln Borglum
Beeville, Texas

Dear Mr. Borglum:

We are quite eager to purchase for our new museum a colossal bronze or marble head of Lincoln by Gutzon Borglum. We know where three of these busts are located; the tomb at Springfield, the rotunda of the United States Capitol and the Chicago Historical Society.

Can you tell me if any others are available for sale. If not, is there a cast available from which a bronze head could be made?

Will you please write me concerning this at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM:hw

[illegible], 1940

Mr. John [illegible]
[illegible], Texas

Dear Mr. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Yours [illegible],

G. [illegible]

[illegible]

March 7, 1960

Col. Randle B. Truett
1622 North Harrison Street
Arlington 5, Virginia

Dear Randle:

I do not think I will come to Washington until the snow storms end. We are literally covered up here at Fort Wayne. Perhaps conditions in the East are even worse.

We are trying our best to locate a colossal bronze or marble head of Lincoln by Borglum. There is one in the rotunda of the Capitol building. I am sure you are familiar with this work of art. Do you know where we might purchase such a bust or can you give me the address of Mrs. Gutzon Borglum? Any help you can give me will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM:hw

P.S. Do you have the new Lincoln stamps from Nicaragua and Taiwan (China)?

March 9, 1960

Mr. Helmuth Bartsch
Holabird & Root
180 North Wabash Avenue
Chicago 1, Illinois

Dear Mr. Bartsch:

I have your letter of March 4 along with your correspondence regarding the Lincoln Head by Borglum. I have read the correspondence which you received from the Chicago Historical Society and as a result of this I have written a number of letters to people in the Lincoln field who may give me a lead as to where we might secure one of the colossal heads by this famous sculptor.

Yesterday I wrote to the son of Gutzin Borglum who lives in Texas. I am hoping that he will be able to give us a lead as to where we might secure such a study.

Just as soon as anything develops, if something does develop, I will contact Mr. E. D. Auer.

Yours sincerely,

RGM:ss

Director

(2)

Lincoln Borglum
210 East Huntington
Beeville, Texas

Mr.R.Gerald McMurtry
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Mr.McMurtry:

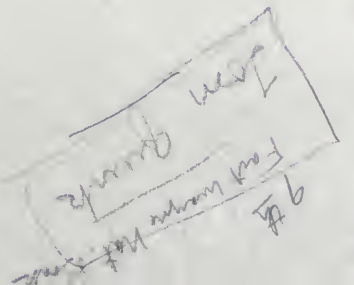
Thank you for your letter of March the seventh.

We do have a plaster available from which a bronze could be cast of the Lincoln head. The cost of the head cast in bronze would be three thousand dollars. I also have a plaster of this, reduced to half size. This would cost fifteen hundred dollars. In both cases there would have to be an allowance of time for the casting to be done.

Sincerely

Lincoln Borglum

March 12,1960



March 15, 1960

Mr. Lincoln Borglum
210 East Huntington
Beeville, Texas

Dear Mr. Borglum:

I have your letter of March 12, 1960.

I am glad to know that it will be possible to have a bronze Lincoln head made from the plaster which you have available.

I will take this matter up with the executives of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company. If and when we make a decision regarding this bust we will contact you.

Our present problem is to determine the dimensions of the head and to decide whether or not it would be appropriate to place it in a relatively small room.

Yours sincerely,

RGM:gt

Director

Lincoln Borglum
210 East Huntington
Beeville, Texas

Mr.R.Gerald McMurtry,Director
The Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne,Indiana

Dear Mr.McMurtry:

In your letter of March the 15th. you raise a question about the possible large scale of the Lincoln head in a small room.

One possible solution might be the use of the scale reduction, that I mentioned in my last letter. This is an exact copy done in half size. It is ninteen inches high and about 15 inches in width.

Sincerely Yours

Lincoln Borglum

March21,1960

March 16, 1960

Mr. Helmuth Bartsch
Holabird & Root
180 North Wabash Avenue
Chicago 1, Illinois

Dear Mr. Bartsch:

I have received a letter from Lincoln Borglum, 210 East Huntington, Beeville, Texas, the son of Gutzon Borglum. He states that a plaster of the Lincoln head is available from which a bronze could be cast of the Lincoln head. The price is $3000.

There is also a plaster of the Lincoln head reduced to half size which would cost $1500.

Mr. Borglum states that there would have to be "an allowance of time for the casting to be done".

I talked to Allen Steere, Vice President. He wants to see the Lincoln head before the bronze is ordered.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM:hw

HOLABIRD & ROOT
ARCHITECTS ENGINEERS

FOUNDED 1883

PARTNERS
JOHN W. ROOT · WILLIAM HOLABIRD · HELMUTH BARTSCH · HARRY F. MANNING · BERNARD H. BRADLEY
ASSOCIATE: J. CHAUNCEY SHERRICK

March 22, 1960

Re: Lincoln National Life
Insurance Company
H&R #9315

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Director
The Lincoln National Life Foundation
1301 South Harrison Street
Fort Wayne 1, Indiana

Dear Dr. McMurtry:

I am delighted to hear the good news about the Gutzon Borglum Lincoln head which you mentioned in your letter of March 16th.

I don't know if I told you I had taken Mr. Edward Auer to the Historical Society in Chicago and shown him the head. He has given his approval to purchase the head. In the budget is enough money. The price of $3,000 is not prohibitive.

I would like to be sure though, that it is the same size as the one at the Chicago Historical Society. Would you be good enough to clear with Mr. Auer so that the head can be purchased?

Yours very truly,

HOLABIRD & ROOT

Helmuth Bartsch (pa)

Helmuth Bartsch

HB:da
cc Mr. Edward D. Auer

P. S. - It would be interesting to find out how much the bronze head weighs.

180 NORTH WABASH AVENUE · CHICAGO 1 · RANDOLPH 6-5960 · CABLE HOLROOT

Long Distance telephone conversation with
Lincoln Borglum, 210 East Huntington, Beeville,
Texas, March 24, 1960 at 2:30 p.m.

Bronze Head

Dimensions

Large Borglum Head of Lincoln	(38" high x 30" wide)
Small " " " "	(19" high x 15" wide)

Weight

Large Borglum Head of Lincoln	(approximately four or five hundred pounds)

Exhibit

Pedestal required to exhibit bust

Cost

Large Borglum Head of Lincoln	$3000.00	(Best price)
Small " " " "	$1500.00	(Best price)

Plaster Head

Only one original plaster head in New York City. Lincoln Borglum must deal through holder of plastic head and meet requirements as to cost according to provisions established by his mother who died last year.

Cost

Large plaster head Small plaster head	Cannot quote price as no one has ever ordered one. Can correspond with New York Contact and will let us know in about ten days.

Time Required to make Lincoln Head

Six weeks to two months

Lincoln Borglum
210 East Huntington
Beeville, Texas

Mr.R.Gerald McMurtry
TheLincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne,Indiana

Dear Mr.McMurtry:

I have some more information about the Lincoln head. We can quote you a price on the full size plaster,white, at fifteen hundred dollars. Shipping charges would be at their cost. I do not advise this purchase, as I feel that the bronze is much more impressive and plaster is simply an intermediate material.

Yours Truly

Lincoln Borglum

April 2,1960

Copy

THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

COPY

Lincoln Borglum
210 East Huntington
Beeville, Texas

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry
The Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Mr. McMurtry:

I have some more information about the Lincoln head. We can quote you a price on the full size plaster, white, at fifteen hundred dollars. Shipping charges would be at their cost. I do not advise this purchase, as I feel that the bronze is much more impressive and plaster is simply an intermediate material.

Yours truly

signed

April 2, 1960 Lincoln Borglum

cc to Edward Auer
(he phoned requesting copy)

cc: Dr. McMurtry

MEMORANDUM

April 19, 1960

Gutzon Borglum's Head of Lincoln

Since both Dr. McMurtry and I were confused by Mr. Lincoln Borglum's letter of April 13 to Dr. McMurtry, from which letter we gathered Mr. Borglum thought a definite order had been placed for the Lincoln Head, I called Mr. Borglum at Beeville, Texas, today, with Dr. McMurtry participating in the call.

I explained to Mr. Borglum that we did not yet have authority from our Committee to order the head and that we needed some points clarified before submitting the matter to the Committee. Mr. Borglum explained that the only reason he sent the letter with the invoice was that he understood from Dr. McMurtry that we wanted to know the amount of his fee. Mr. Borglum stated that we were not bound in any way, excepting that, as stated in his letter, we should not use the head, if purchased, to make other copies. I promised to place a stipulation to that effect in the formal order if we decided to purchase the head.

I asked whether it would be possible for us to pay Mr. Borglum his fee and then see where we could get the head cast ourselves. We have been thinking of having it done in aluminum and painting it.

Also, I told Mr. Borglum we were not yet sure the architects would approve the use of the head.

Mr. Borglum explained that he has an interest in the head, as does his sister, and that Mr. Luhde of Stamford, Connecticut, also has an interest.

Mr. Borglum said the price of the plaster head, packed ready to ship wherever we want it to go is $1,500. Then the Lincoln can do as it pleases with it. The head is in existence, and if we wish to have it cast somewhere in the neighborhood of New York, Mr. Borglum can probably arrange for its delivery to the foundry.

When asked whether he could give us an idea of the cost of having the head cast, Mr. Borglum said he did not know exactly, but his rough guess would be $1,000 or $1,100 to have it cast in bronze.

The plaster head weighs somewhere around 200 or 250 pounds, and, according to Mr. Borglum, will be in such condition that we can simply paint it bronze if we wish.

I told Mr. Borglum we would probably order the head, but that the matter should remain status quo until we had an opportunity to see it in plaster in Stamford; that we would probably do that within the next week or ten days. After that, if we decided to purchase it, we would give him a formal order.

Mr. Borglum will be in Stamford, in touch with Mr. Luhde, probably until the middle of next week, after which he will be back in Beeville, Texas.

WB

Edward D. Auer

April 26, 1960

Mr. Lincoln Borglum
210 East Huntington
Beeville, Texas

Dear Mr. Borglum:

I expect to make a trip to New York soon, and will arrange to call on Mr. Luhde to see the Hutzon Borglum Head of Lincoln in plaster.

After that, the matter will be taken up with our Committee and the architects, and, if it is decided to purchase the head, we will send you a definite, formal order for it.

For your information, enclosed is a copy of memorandum of our telephone call on April 19. It was made for our file and I thought you might like a copy for yours.

Sincerely,

EDA:WB
Enc. 1

Senior Vice President

cc: Dr. McMurtry
Mr. Steere

May 5, 1960

Mr. Ernest T. Luhde, Director
Stamford Museum
North Stamford Avenue
Stamford, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Luhde: Gutzon Borglum
Head of Lincoln

Mr. Helmuth Bartsch of Holabird & Root, Chicago, architects for our new Home Office addition, and I plan to go to New York on May 11 or 12, our purpose being to see the above in plaster.

If the above dates are convenient for you, we will call you from New York and arrange to go to Stamford to meet you, and see the head.

We shall appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

WB Senior Vice President

cc: Mr. Bartsch
Dr. McMurtry
Mr. Steere

May 13, 1960

Mr. Eugene Bedi
Bedi-Hassy Art Foundry
227 India Street
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Mr. Bedi:

You will recall that I talked with you on the telephone yesterday about the Borglum Lincoln Head in plaster which is owned by Mr. Lahde, the Borglum estate, and Mr. Lincoln Borglum.

I borrowed two photographs from Mr. Lahde, which I am obligated to return to him. I have had our photographer take prints of these photographs and one of each is enclosed, showing the measurements of the head. Would you be so kind as to give me the following information:

1. Cost of casting the head in bronze; also the approximate weight of the finished casting and an accurate delivery date in our Museum at Fort Wayne.

2. The same information for a casting in anodized aluminum finished in a bronze color.

After we have made suitable arrangements with Mr. Lahde and have had a chance to study your quotations, if we decide to go ahead, it would be your obligation to pick up the head from the Stamford Museum in Stamford, Connecticut, and, if necessary, return it after it has served its purpose. I believe you said that the bronze casting would weigh about three times the anodized aluminum one, and since weight, or rather the lack of it, is important for our purpose, I would appreciate knowing as nearly as you can estimate the weight of each type of casting.

By copy of this letter to Mr. Luhde, I am attempting to keep him informed.

When a decision is reached at this end, I believe it would be proper for Mr. Helmuth Bartsch, partner in the architectural firm of Holabird & Root, 180 North Wabash, Chicago 1, Illinois, to inspect the plaster head and consult with you.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours very truly,

Senior Vice President

MDA:WB
Encs.

cc: Mr. Bartsch
Mr. Luhde
Mr. Richards
Mr. Herter
Mr. Steere
Dr. McMurtry

May 13, 1960

Mr. Helmuth Bartsch
Holabird & Root
180 North Wabash
Chicago 1, Illinois

Dear Helmuth:

As agreed, I visited Mr. Ernest I. Luhde, Director of the Stamford Museum, Stamford, Connecticut. Enclosed you will find some literature which will give you an idea of the activities of the museum.

It developed that Mr. Luhde, an amateur sculptor, cast the Borglum Lincoln Head in plaster himself about eight years ago. Apparently it has been sitting around the museum during these years, not even on display. As you will recall, Luhde, the Borglum estate and Lincoln Borglum claim a joint ownership in the head.

I picked up two photographs, which I am obligated to return to Mr. Luhde. Our photographer is trying to make reproductions of these two photographs which will be forwarded to you on Monday. You will notice that the full face view seems to be pretty good, but the profile, at least to me, leaves much to be desired. In the first place, the plaster shows the casting marks. Mr. Luhde assured me these could be eliminated by an expert. Perhaps more serious is that the back of the head is so uneven and would require substantial filling out so that it could be applied to a wall surface. Further complications arise with the base, which is unfinished. In all, I had so many misgivings that I decided not to contract for the purchase of the head at the $1500 which Mr. Luhde is requesting.

Mr. Luhde has an assistant, Mr. Wallace Rosenbauer, whom I appraised as an intelligent and capable individual. He has done some professional work in sculpture. Mr. Rosenbauer referred me to Mr. Eugene Bedi, Bedi-Bassy Art Foundry, 227 India Street, Brooklyn, New York (Telephone Ev. 3-4191) and suggested that I communicate directly with Mr. Eugene Bedi, which I did. Mr. Bedi stated that his firm has in its possession a Borglum Lincoln Head about one-eighth the size of the head we are discussing. I am sure it would be too small for our use, but you may have a different opinion. I did not see that head since my conversation with Mr. Bedi was by telephone.

When I asked Mr. Bedi about the cost of casting the Borglum head in which we are interested in bronze, he was unwilling to quote a price until he actually saw the photographs and had the exact measurements. Mr. Rosenbauer thought a bronze casting would cost between $1,600 and $1,800, and marble would cost about $2,000. He said there were only two or three people in New York City capable of doing it in marble. It would require about four months to cast the head in bronze and deliver it. It is also possible to make a cast of anodized aluminum with a bronze finish, and Mr. Bedi will give us a quotation on that. At his expense and as part of the contract price, he would arrange to pick up the head from the Stamford Museum, cast it, and take it back to Mr. Luhde.

When I informed Mr. Bedi that the price of the plaster casting was $1,500, he said: "That's ridiculous. Just arrange to borrow the plaster head and I'll return it when I'm finished with it." At the very most, Mr. Bedi said we should pay Mr. Luhde $400 for the use of the head, but, of course, that is a matter for us to decide.

The attached letter to Mr. Bedi is self-explanatory, but I really think this is a decision for you to make since my abilities fall far short in this particular field.

Sincerely,

Edward D. Auer
Senior Vice President

EDA:WS
Encs.

cc: Mr. Richards
Mr. Herter
Mr. Steere
Dr. McMurtry ✓

H O L A B I R D & R O O T
A R C H I T E C T S E N G I N E E R S

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PARTNERS
JOHN W. ROOT · WILLIAM HOLABIRD · HELMUTH BARTSCH · HARRY F. MANNING · BERNARD H. BRADLEY
ASSOCIATE: CHAUNCEY SHERRICK

May 16, 1960

Re: The Lincoln National
Life Insurance Co.
H&R #9315

Ans by Martin

LINCOLN LIFE
Re
REC'D MAY 17 1960
Answered
Office of E. D. AUER

Mr. Edward D. Auer, Senior Vice President
The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company
1301 South Harrison Street
Fort Wayne 1, Indiana

Dear Ed:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding your trip to Stamford. After reading the disappointing news, I shall take another look at the head on display here at the Chicago Historical Society. Off hand, I recall that the one here in Chicago is also unfinished as far as the neck line is concerned. The back of the head is also not completed. This is quite obvious because the model was prepared for the Mount Rushmore sculpture.

I also recall that the profile looked just as distinguished as the head-on view.

I have written to Mr. Tom Weil of Weil Importers in New York regarding the possible purchase of etchings and lithographs. I also have looked over what is presently available at Watson & Boaler here in Chicago. The selection here is good but there are not too many, about 8 to 10 are suitable. I still feel we should wait with the final selection until the furniture has been installed. At least that is the way I have handled these problems all my life.

I have either not taken with me or mislaid the note that contained the two approved inscriptions for the Lincoln Museum, one that you wanted to be affixed to the marble wall near the main entrance, the other to be displayed in the garden room of the Museum. Would you be good enough to send me these inscriptions again?

Young John Holabird will be down soon to see Dr. McMurtry.

With best regards,

Helmuth

Helmuth Bartsch

HB:da

cc Mr. V. H. Otte
Mr. T. A. Burns
Mr. John F. Herter

P. S. - There is one more item that I forgot to mention but which I discussed briefly, I believe, with you during my recent visit. It would be well to have the existing metal desks in the reception area on the fifth floor replaced with something better, preferably Herman Miller L-shaped desks with a cane panel front. Against the charcoal and light grey plant container, a davenport, two side chairs and two side tables would look well especially in the brilliant red color.

Tel. EVergreen 3-4191

Dr McMurtry

STATUARY
TABLETS

BEDI-RASSY ART FOUNDRY

227 29-31 INDIA STREET
Greenpoint, Brooklyn 22, N. Y.

May 20th, 1960

LINCOLN LIFE
Referred to
REC'D MAY 23 1960
Answered
Office of E. D. AUER

Edward D. Auer
The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Mr. Auer:

We have received the photographs of the Borglum Lincoln Head, and we were pleased to recognize this portrait head as the one that we had cast for Mr. Borglum several years ago.

The cost of casting the head in bronze will be one thousand seven hundred, twenty five dollars ($1,725.00). The approximate weight of the the finished casting will be two hundred eighty pounds.

The cost of casting the head in aluminum and then anodized in a bronze color will be two thousand, one hundred dollars, ($2,100). The approximate weight of the aluminum will be one hundred pounds.

These estimates include our costs of picking up the Head at the Stamford Museum in Stamford, Connecticut, and, if necessary, returning it.

The photographs are being herewith returned.

Yours very truly,

Bedi-Rassy Art Foundry

Eugene Bedi

Eugene Bedi

EB:a
Encls.

The Stamford Advocate
Stamford, Connecticut
February 12, 1962

Stamford Sculptor Found Inspiration In Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln has been a source of inspiration to poets and historians, but probably few were more deeply affected by him than the sculptor, Gutzon Borglum.

The size of the man's image inspired Borglum to make his first attempt at colossal sculpture. The eminently successful result is the heroic bust that stands in the Rotunda of the Capitol building in Washington, D.C.

Led To Rushmore.

This was the first in a series of steps that led the former Stamford resident to the carvings on Mount Rushmore of Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson and Theodore Roosevelt that brought him great fame.

A plaster copy of the Lincoln bust, made from the original mold, dominates the main hall of the Stamford Museum and Nature Center. Ernest Luhde, the director, cast the copy.

Praised By Son.

Robert Lincoln, the son of the President, saw the bust shortly after it was completed and said that he considered it the best likeness of his father he had ever seen. Truman Bartlett, who had made a study of all the known portraits of Lincoln, went further and said that there had not yet been a sculptured head of Lincoln that could compare with it.

On the 100th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, the bust was shown in the White House. Theodore Roosevelt was president at the time, and it was his attraction for the work that eventually caused it to be returned to Washington.

Permanent Home.

By Congressional order it was placed in the Capital rotunda, never to be removed.

In order to satisfy demands for replicas, the sculptor was allowed to make a copy of the bust in plaster. Bronze duplicates of it are in Lincoln's tomb

(Continued on Page 2 Col. 6)

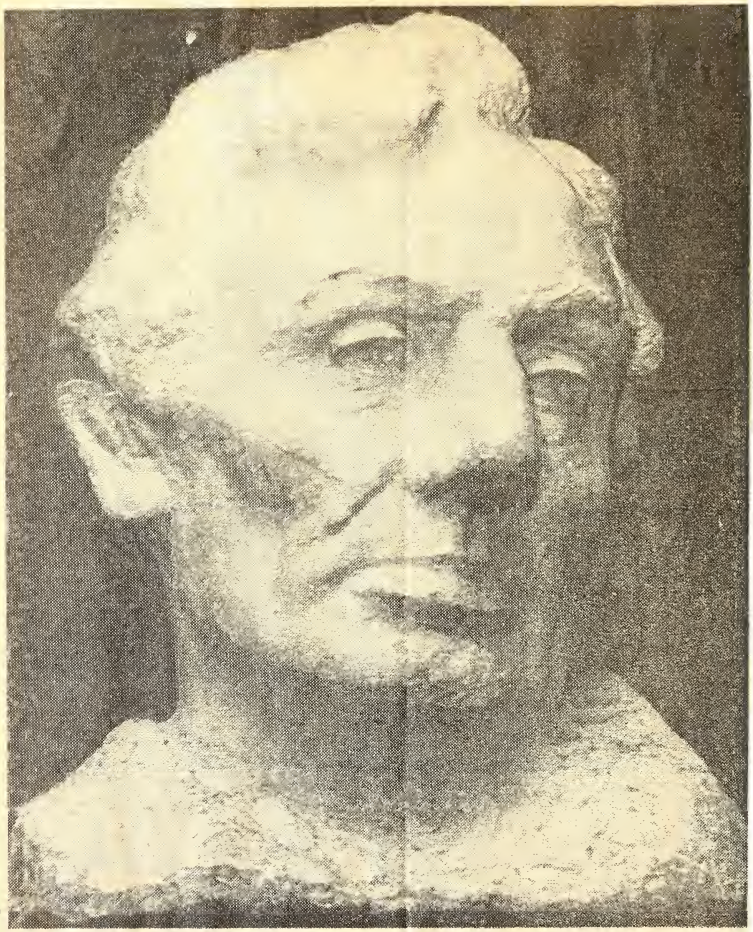
Lincoln Inspired Borglum Creation

(Continued from Page One)

in Springfield, Ill., in the Hall of Fame in New York, the University of Southern California, and in the collection of the Chicago Historical Society. The Detroit Museum of Art has another head that the sculptor made for himself.

Borglum did another Lincoln —the seated figure in front of the Newark, N.J., courthouse— before he began work on the Mount Rushmore National monument that was commissioned by the federal government and paid for by the state of South Dakota.

As Borglum Saw Him



This plaster copy of the famous Gutzon Borglum bust of Abraham Lincoln was cast from the original mold by Ernest Luhde, director of the Stamford Museum and Nature Center, and is exhibited in the main Museum hall. Mr. Luhde worked with Mr. Borglum's widow to collect and mark the sculptor's work in the Wire Mill Rd. studio after his death in 1940. The bust measures three and a half feet from the chin to the top of the head. (Walter)

BORGLUM GUTZON
Lincoln National Life, 1960

DRAWER 22

Sculptors - B
(Busts)